

I agree with retaining the 5wpm morse code exam requirement, as well as the petition's observation in stating "that an amateur whom is proficient in radiotelegraphy has a distinct advantage over other amateurs who are not likewise proficient in this simple communications method." However, I disagree with several other points within RM-10868. I see no reason to scrap the current exam question pools or change how they are regulated today, with periodic reviews and revisions every few years. Unfortunately I can only speak for myself, but in my experience in studying for the license exams I didn't rely on only reading the study guides, I read additional books to further my knowledge, and in doing so I learned the material, I didn't just memorize the answers. I disagree with automatically upgrading or combining different license classes together for any reason, without administering the proper examinations. I also do not agree with relaxing any emission restrictions for any mode, including digital modes. Instead of the sweeping changes detailed in RM-10868, I suggest keeping both the Technician and Extra class licenses as is. However, if opening up the HF bands to more operators is the goal, drop the morse code requirement from the General class license, and naturally eliminate CW as an operating mode for new General class licensees, but preserve the CW, RTTY, and Data HF band segments, as well as the voluntary band plans organized by the ARRL which are currently in place.